Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Government have asked the Division Peishkar, Kottayam, the Inspector General of Police and the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts to conduct enquiries and to start prosecutions when called for.

(*c*) The reports have been received and the matter is under consideration.

Rent Control Order.

14. ***Mr. K. Shahul Hameed**: Will the Government be pleased to state the extent of the application of the Rent Control Order of 1119?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: The Travancore House Rent Control Order, 1120 has been made applicable at present to the following areas namely:—

1. Alleppey Municipality.
2. Alwaye Municipality.
3. Kottayam Municipality.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed: May I know why the Rent Control Order has not been made applicable in places where the rent has gone high?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: If the rent has gone high in any place and if Government are informed about it necessary steps will be taken by Government to extend the Rent Control Order to that place.

Mr. K. Shahul Hameed: Is not the rent in Trivandrum a bit higher than in previous years?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: That information has not been brought to the notice of Government.

Mr. K. C. Chandy (*Thodupuzha* cum *Minachil*): May I know whether the Travancore Advocates' Association have not informed Government of the increase in rent in Trivandrum and the introduction of the Government Rent Control Order for the capital on that account?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: I am not aware of that.

Rent Control Order.

15. ***Mr. K. C. Chandy**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) to what all places the operation of the Rent Control Order was extended by notifications;

(*b*) whether there is any special reason why the same was not extended to the Corporation limits of the City of Trivandrum; and

(*c*) whether they are aware of the existence of circumstances justifying such extension to the City of Trivandrum as well?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: (*a*) The Travancore House Rent Control Order, 1120, has been made applicable at present to the following areas namely:—

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1. Alleppey Municipality.
2. Alwaye Municipality.
3. Kottayam Municipality.

(*b*) Yes, because the Commissioner, Corporation of Trivandrum reported that there has not been any abnormal general increase in the rate of house rents in the City,

(*c*) Government are not aware of any circumstances beyond what the Commissioner has stated.

Mr. K. C. Chandy: May I know, if the increase in the rate of house rents is admitted to be greater than the rent that was prevailing in Trivandrum in 1118, could not the operation of the Rent Control Order be made applicable to Trivandrum?

Mr. C. P. Gopala Panicker: In so far as the increase in rent has not been brought to the notice of Government, nothing could be done. But if the matter is brought to their notice, Government will consider the matter.

President: The reasons underlying the policy of Government in regard to this matter are as follows. In certain municipalities, as a result of the starting of new industries and of certain war pre-occupations, new inhabitants have come into the municipalities in large numbers for stay. The present coir situation in Alleppey and the large increase in the number of persons who have come there on account of the commercial importance of the place have made the question of house accommodation at Alleppey—always very difficult—all the more difficult now. In the case of Alwaye, on account of the emergence of 4 or 5 first rate factories—Aluminium factory, the Fertilisers, the Glass factory, the Match factory—a large number of labourers have come to Alwaye with the result that the house rent has increased. The same can be said of Kottayam. But Trivandrum is not a very industrialised place. Although rents have increased all over India, from our enquiry it is found that it has not risen to such an extent as to necessitate the enactment of a Rent Control legislation. But, if at any time it is found that it is a case in which Government should inferfere they will have no hesitation in doing so.

Mr. K. S. Joseph: May I know Sir, whether the Trivandrum Bar Association has not passed a resolution requesting Government to introduce the Rent Control Order in Trivandrum also?

President: It is because a few representations came to Government that they initiated an enquiry and the honourable member will find that the answer to the question is "—because the Commissioner Corporation of Trivandrum reported that there has not been any abnormal general increase in the rate of house rents in the City". The matter, however, will be kept in mind.

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